

37. A NOTE ON ACACIA CANESCENCE COMPLEX

Heyne collected a plant from East India which was incorporated in Wallich's Catalogue under number 5253 A and was labelled *Acacia caesia* Willd. Benth. (1842), while studying the suborder Mimosoideae, considered it as a variety of *Acacia pennata* (Linn.) Willd. He called it variety 'heyneana'. He gave the Latin diagnosis for the variety, citing Wallich Catalogue no. 5253 A. He also cited *Acacia canescence* Grah. Wall. Cat. no. 5256. Thus, 5253 A and 5256 become the syntypes for the variety and it is proposed here to treat no. 5253 A as the lectotype for the variety.

Later, Benth. in 1875 did not mention this variety. He cited *A. caesia* Wall. Cat. no. 5253 A and *Acacia canescence* Grah. Wall. Cat. no. 5256 as synonyms of *Acacia pennata* (Linn.) Willd., thus merging his own variety with the type species. However, Baker (1879) treated *Acacia canescence* Grah. Wall. Cat. 5256 as a variety of *A. pennata* (Linn.) Willd. and called it variety *canescence* Baker and cited no. 5253 A *A. caesia* Wall. as a synonym. Thus, it is clear that *Acacia pennata* (Linn.) Willd. var. *canescence* Baker (1879) is synonymous with *Acacia pennata* (Linn.) Willd. var. *heyneana* Benth. (1842).

Gamble (1919) considered *A. canescence* Grah. as a good species and provided the description of the species. Since then, *Acacia canescence* Grah. has been considered a validly published species. The correct citation for the species is as follows:

Acacia canescence Grah. ex Gamble Fl. Pres. Madras 1: 429, 1919 (Repr. ed. 1:304, 1957).

Britton (1936) described a species from Cundinamarca, Columbia, and called it *Poponax canescence* (Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sc. 35: 139, 1936). G. Barc & F. Gonzales (1969) transferred this species to the genus *Acacia* Mill. and called it *Acacia canescence* (Cat. Pl. Cundinamarca 3: 19, 1969). This plant has stipular spines

about 2 cm long. Hence it is different from *Acacia canescence* Grah. ex Gamble. Thus, *A. canescence* (Britton) Barc & Gonz. is a later homonym of the Indian *A. canescence* Grah. ex Gamble (1919) in sense of Article 64 of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, and should be rejected.

It is proposed here to name the Columbian plant as *Acacia cundinamarcensis* Subhedar nom. nov. The specific epithet is adopted from the locality from where the plant was collected. Its correct name and its pertinent synonymy as follows:

Acacia cundinamarcensis Subhedar Nom. Nov.
Acacia canescence (Britton) Barc. & Gonz. in Cat. Pl. Cundinamarca 3:19, 1969; (non. Grah. ex Gamble);
Poponax canescence Britton in Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sc. 35: 139, 1936.

The correct name and its pertinent synonymy of the Indian plant is as follows:

Acacia pennata (Linn.) Willd. var. *heyneana* Benth. in Hooker's London Jour. Bot. 4: 515-16, 1842. *A. caesia* Wall. Cat. 5253 A, 1831-32 (nom.nud.) (non Willd.). *Acacia canescence* Grah. in Wall. Cat. 5256, 1831-32 (Nom.nud.) Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras 1: 429, 1919 (Repr. ed. 1: 304, 1957). *Acacia pennata* (Linn.) Willd. var. *canescence* Baker in Hooker's Fl. Brit. India 2: 298, 1879.

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BARC, G. *et al.* (1969): Catalogue of Plants of Cundinamarca, Columbia.
BENTHAM (1842): Notes on Mimoseae. *Hooker's. London Jour. Bot.* 4.
----- (1875): Revision of sub order Mimosoideae.

Trans. Linn. Soc. Vol. XXX.

BRITTON (1936): *Poponax canescence* Britton - New species from Cundinamarca. *Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sc.* XXXV.

GAMBLE (1919): Flora of Presidency Madras Vol. I (Repr. ed. 1957).

38. MEZONEURON HYMENOC ARPUM PRAIN: A NEW DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORD FOR THE INDIAN MAINLAND

The genus *Mezoneuron* Desf. consists of 10 species distributed in tropical Asia and confined to the old world.